

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing device for performing image processing on image data with image processing control information defining image quality correction condition in the image processing device, the image processing control information being related to the image data at an image data generating device, ~~said the~~ image processing device comprising:

an image data and image processing control information acquisition mechanism configured to acquire the image data and the image processing control information from the image data generating device;

an image quality properties acquisition mechanism configured to analyze ~~said the~~ image data and acquire image quality property information that indicates a property pertaining to an image quality of ~~said the~~ image data; and

an image quality adjustment mechanism configured to adjust the image quality of ~~said the~~ image data with both the image processing control information and ~~said the~~ acquired image quality property information.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said the~~ image quality property information is a combination of a plurality of image quality parameter values that indicate image quality properties of ~~said the~~ image data; and

~~said the~~ image quality adjustment mechanism is configured to perform image quality adjustment by adjusting the image quality of ~~said the~~ image data so as to reflect ~~said the~~ image processing control information.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said the~~ image quality property information is a combination of a plurality of image quality parameter values indicating image quality properties of ~~said the~~ image data;

~~said the~~ image quality adjustment mechanism includes standard image quality parameter values serving as a basis for image quality adjustment, respective of ~~said the~~ standard image quality parameter values being predetermined for each of ~~said the~~ image quality parameter values; and

~~said the~~ image quality adjustment mechanism performs image quality adjustment by calculating, on the basis of ~~said the~~ standard image quality parameter values and ~~said the~~ image quality parameter values, a level of correction for correcting ~~said the~~ image data, increasing or decreasing ~~said the~~ level of correction on the basis of an analysis result of ~~said the~~ image processing control information, and adjusting ~~said the~~ image data to reflect an increased or decreased level of correction.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 3, wherein:

the image quality adjustment mechanism is configured to increase or decrease the level of correction made based on the analysis result and by correcting ~~said the~~ standard image quality parameter values based on the analysis result.

Claim 5 (Original): An image processing device according to claim 3, wherein:

the image quality adjustment mechanism is configured to increase or decrease the level of correction made based on the analysis result and by determining an appropriate level of correction based on the analysis result.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image data output mechanism configured to output image data subjected to image quality adjustment by ~~said the~~ image quality adjustment mechanism.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein:
~~said~~ the image processing control information includes correction information for at least one item of information relating to contrast, brightness, color balance, saturation, sharpness, memory color, and noise reduction.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein:
~~said~~ the image processing control information is stored with the image data within one image file.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for performing image processing on image data with image processing control information defining image quality correction condition in ~~the~~ an image processing device, the image processing control information being related to the image data at an image data generating device, ~~said~~ the method comprising steps of:

acquiring the image data and the image processing control information from the image data generating device;

analyzing ~~said~~ the image data;

acquiring image quality property information that indicates a property pertaining to an image quality of ~~said~~ the image data; and

adjusting the image quality of ~~said~~ the image data with both ~~said~~ the image processing control information and ~~said~~ the acquired image quality property information.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein:

~~said~~ the image quality property information is a combination of a plurality of image quality parameter values that indicate image quality properties of ~~said~~ the image data; and

~~said~~ the adjusting step includes adjusting the image quality of ~~said~~ the image data so as to reflect ~~said~~ the image processing control information.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein:

~~said the~~ image quality property information is a combination of a plurality of image quality parameter values indicating image quality properties of ~~said the~~ image data;

~~said the~~ adjusting step includes using standard image quality parameter values serving as a basis for image quality adjustment, respective of ~~said the~~ standard image quality parameter values being predetermined for each of ~~said the~~ image quality parameter values; and

~~said the~~ adjusting step includes calculating, on the basis of ~~said the~~ standard image quality parameter values and ~~said the~~ image quality parameter values, a level of correction for correcting ~~said the~~ image data, increasing or decreasing ~~said the~~ level of correction on the basis of an analysis result of ~~said the~~ image processing control information, and adjusting ~~said the~~ image data to reflect an increased or decreased level of correction.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein:

~~said the~~ adjusting step includes increasing or decreasing the level of correction made based on the analysis result and correcting ~~said the~~ standard image quality parameter values based on the analysis result.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein:

~~said the~~ adjusting step includes increasing or decreasing the level of correction made based on the analysis result and by determining an appropriate level of correction based on the analysis result.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein:

~~said the~~ image processing control information includes correction information for at least one item of information relating to contrast, brightness, color balance, saturation, sharpness, memory color, and noise reduction.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 11, wherein:

~~said the~~ image processing control information is stored with the image data within one image file.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An image processing device for performing image processing on image data with standard image quality information serving as a basis for image quality correction of the image data, the standard image quality information being related to the image data, ~~said~~ the image processing device comprising:

an image quality parameter value acquisition mechanism configured to analyze ~~said~~ the image data and acquire an image quality parameter value that indicates an image quality property of ~~said~~ the image data;

a standard image quality parameter value acquisition mechanism configured to acquire a standard image quality parameter value predetermined for ~~said~~ the image quality parameter, based on ~~said~~ the standard image quality information; and

an image quality adjustment mechanism configured to adjust the image quality of ~~said~~ the image data based on ~~said~~ the standard image quality parameter value and ~~said~~ the image quality parameter value acquired by ~~said~~ the image quality parameter value acquisition mechanism.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 16, further comprising:

an image data output mechanism configured to output image data subjected to image quality adjustment by ~~said~~ the image quality adjustment mechanism.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 16, wherein:

~~said~~ the image quality parameter value includes correction information for at least one item of information relating to contrast, brightness, color balance, saturation, sharpness, memory color, and noise reduction.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 16, wherein:

~~said~~ the image quality parameter value is stored with the image data within one image file.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An image processing device for performing image processing on image data with image processing control information defining image quality correction in the image processing device, the image processing control information being related to the image data at an image data generating device, ~~said the~~ the image processing device comprising:

an image data and image processing control information acquisition mechanism configured to acquire the image data and the image processing control information from the image data generating device;

an image quality parameter value acquisition mechanism configured to analyze ~~said the~~ the image data and acquire an image quality parameter value that indicates an image quality property of ~~said the~~ the image data;

a standard image quality parameter value correction mechanism configured to analyze ~~said the~~ the image processing control information, and based on an analysis result correct a standard image quality parameter value predetermined for ~~said the~~ the image quality parameter; and

an image quality adjustment mechanism configured to adjust the image quality of ~~said the~~ the image data based on ~~said the~~ the standard image quality parameter value corrected by ~~said the~~ the standard image quality parameter value correction mechanism and ~~said the~~ the image quality parameter value acquired by ~~said the~~ the image quality parameter value acquisition mechanism.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 20, wherein:

~~said the~~ the standard image quality parameter values are a combination of parameter values selected from a plurality of values for ~~said the~~ the image quality parameter values, based on ~~said the~~ the image processing control information.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 20, wherein:

~~said the~~ the image processing control information includes correction information for at least one item of information relating to contrast, brightness, color balance, saturation, sharpness, memory color, and noise reduction.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An image processing device according to claim 20, wherein:

~~said the~~ image processing control information is stored with the image data within one image file.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An image processing device for performing image processing on image data that is included in a single image file with image processing control information defining an image quality correction condition in the image processing device, the image processing control information being related to the image data at an image data generating device, ~~said the~~ image processing device comprising:

means for acquiring the image data and the image processing control information from the image data generating device;

means for analyzing ~~said the~~ image data;

means for acquiring image quality property information that indicates a property pertaining to an image quality of ~~said the~~ image data; and

means for adjusting the image quality of ~~said the~~ image data with both ~~said the~~ image processing control information and ~~said the~~ acquired image quality property information.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The image processing device of claim 24, further comprising:

means for adjusting an image quality of ~~said the~~ image data.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A computer-executable program, stored on a computer readable medium, for performing image quality adjustment of image data on image data with image processing control information defining an image quality correction condition in an image processing device, the image processing control information being related to the image data at an image data generating device, wherein ~~said~~ the computer-executable program includes executable instructions for a computer to perform functions comprising:

- ~~acquiring~~ acquisition of the image data and the image processing control information from the image data generating device;

- analysis of ~~said~~ the image data and acquisition of an image quality parameter value that indicates image quality properties of ~~said~~ the image data;

- analysis of ~~said~~ the image processing control information, and based on an analysis result, correcting a standard image quality parameter value predetermined for ~~said~~ the image quality parameter; and

- adjustment of the image quality of ~~said~~ the image data based on ~~said~~ the corrected standard image quality parameter value and ~~said~~ the acquired image quality parameter value.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device generating image data for use in an output device that is separate from ~~said~~ the image pick-up device and that outputs an image based on image data subjected to image quality adjustment processing, ~~said~~ the image pick-up device comprising:

- an image data input mechanism configured to receive image data to subsequently be output to ~~said~~ the output device;

- an image quality adjustment processing condition designating mechanism configured to designate a condition for image quality adjustment processing of ~~said~~ the image data performed by ~~said~~ the output device;

- an image quality adjustment data generation mechanism configured to generate image quality adjustment data, based on ~~said~~ the condition for image quality adjustment processing in ~~said~~ the output device and ~~said~~ the condition designated by ~~said~~ the image quality adjustment processing condition designating mechanism; and

- an image data output mechanism configured to associate the input image data and the image quality adjustment data and output ~~said~~ the input image data associated with the image quality adjustment data to a memory.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 27, wherein:
~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data is data for correcting a standard image quality parameter used as a basis for image quality adjustment processing in image quality adjustment processing by ~~said~~ the output device.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 27, wherein:
~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data is a standard image quality parameter value used as a standard value for image quality adjustment processing in image quality adjustment processing by ~~said~~ the output device.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 27, wherein:
~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data is a combination of a plurality of standard image quality parameter values corresponding to image quality parameters representing image quality of ~~said~~ the image data, and used as standard values for image quality adjustment processing by ~~said~~ the output device.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 27, wherein:
~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data is data for designating an appropriate level of correction for correcting ~~said~~ the image data calculated on the basis of a standard image quality parameter value used as a standard value for image quality adjustment processing by ~~said~~ the output device and an image quality parameter value representing image quality of ~~said~~ the image data.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 27, wherein:
~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data is data for designating a trend for correction of a plurality of standard image quality parameter values, corresponding to image quality parameters representing image quality of ~~said~~ the image data, and used as standard values for image quality adjustment processing by ~~said~~ the output device.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 32, wherein:
~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data includes data designating trends for correction of ~~said~~ the standard image quality parameter values relating at least to contrast, brightness, color balance, saturation, sharpness, memory color, and noise reduction, for each ~~said~~ photographic condition.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 27, wherein ~~said~~ the image quality adjustment processing condition designation mechanism ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a display device configured to display ~~said~~ the image quality adjustment processing condition; and

a determination mechanism configured to select and determine ~~said~~ the image quality adjustment processing condition.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 27, wherein:
~~said~~ the image data output mechanism is configured to store the image data with ~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data within one image file.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device according to claim 27, further comprising:

an image generator configured to generate image data for output by ~~said~~ the output device.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): An image pick-up device generating image data for use in an output device that is separate from ~~said~~ the image pick-up device and that outputs image data subjected to image quality adjustment processing, ~~said~~ the image pick-up device comprising:

means for inputting image data for output to ~~said~~ the output device;

means for designating a condition for image quality adjustment processing of ~~said~~ the image data performed by ~~said~~ the output device;

means for generating image quality adjustment data, based on ~~said~~ the ~~designated~~ condition for image quality adjustment processing in ~~said~~ the output device; and

means for outputting a single image file that contains ~~said~~ the input image data and the image quality adjustment data to a memory.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A method of generating image data in an image pick-up device that is separate from an output device, ~~said~~ the output device outputting an image based on the image data, comprising steps of:

inputting image data for output to ~~said~~ the output device;

designating a condition for image quality adjustment processing of ~~said~~ the image data performed by ~~said~~ the output device;

generating image quality adjustment data, based on ~~said~~ the ~~designated~~ condition for image quality adjustment processing in ~~said~~ the output device;

relating ~~said~~ the input image data to the image quality adjustment data; and

outputting the related image data to a memory.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38 wherein:

~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data is data for correcting a standard image quality parameter used as a basis for image quality adjustment processing in image quality adjustment processing by ~~said~~ the output device.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38 wherein ~~said~~ the image quality adjustment data is a standard image quality parameter value used as a standard value for image quality adjustment processing in image quality adjustment processing by ~~said~~ the output device.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein:

~~said the~~ the image quality adjustment data is a combination of a plurality of standard image quality parameter values corresponding to image quality parameters representing image quality of ~~said the~~ the image data, and used as standard values for image quality adjustment processing by ~~said the~~ the output device.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein:

~~said the~~ the image quality adjustment data is data for designating an appropriate level of correction for correcting ~~said the~~ the image data calculated based on a standard image quality parameter value used as a standard value for image quality adjustment processing by ~~said the~~ the output device and an image quality parameter value representing image quality of ~~said the~~ the image data.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein:

~~said the~~ the image quality adjustment data is data for designating a trend for correction of a plurality of standard image quality parameter values, corresponding to image quality parameters representing image quality of ~~said the~~ the image data, and used as standard values for image quality adjustment processing by ~~said the~~ the output device.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein ~~is said the~~ the method is a computer-implemented method.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 44, wherein:

~~said the~~ the image quality adjustment data includes data designating trends for correction of ~~said the~~ the standard image quality parameter values relating at least to contrast, brightness, color balance, saturation, sharpness, memory color, and noise reduction, for each ~~said~~ photographic condition.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, further comprising:

displaying ~~said the~~ the image quality adjustment processing condition; and
selecting and determining ~~said the~~ the image quality adjustment processing condition.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, further comprising:
storing ~~said~~ the image data with the image quality adjustment data within one image file.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, further comprising:
generating image data for output by ~~said~~ the output device.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): A computer-executable program, stored on a computer readable medium, for generating image data in an image pick-up device that is separate from an output device, ~~said~~ the output device outputting an image based on the image data, wherein ~~said~~ the computer-executable program includes executable instructions for a computer to perform functions comprising:

- acquisition of image data for output to ~~said~~ the output device;
- designation of a condition for image quality adjustment processing of ~~said~~ the image data performed by ~~said~~ the output device;
- generation of image quality adjustment data based on ~~said~~ the ~~designated~~ condition for image quality adjustment processing in ~~said~~ the output device;
- relation of ~~said~~ the acquired image data to the image ~~output control data quality~~ adjustment data; and
- output of the related image data to a memory.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): An image processing system for outputting image data from an image file that includes, in a single file, image data and image processing control information defining image quality correction in the image processing device, the image processing control information being related to the image data at an image data generating device, ~~said the~~ image processing system comprising:

- an image data generating device including
 - means for acquiring ~~said the~~ image data,
 - means for designating a condition for image quality adjustment processing of ~~said the~~ image data,
 - means for generating image ~~quality adjustment data~~ processing control information based on ~~said the~~ condition for image quality adjustment processing, and
 - means for generating a single image file that contains ~~said the~~ acquired image data and the image output processing control data information; and
- an image processing device including
 - means for analyzing ~~said the~~ image data and acquiring image quality property information for ~~said the~~ image data; and
 - means for adjusting the image quality of ~~said the~~ image data to reflect ~~said the~~ condition for image quality adjustment processing and ~~said the~~ image quality property information.